

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/856,661

Examiner

Dwayne K Handy

Applicant(s)

HOHMANN ET AL.

Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment/arguments filed 11/18/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 02/03/2005.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on 11/18/2004. Applicant has amended Figure 1 to show the contact surfaces as offset from the fluid connections as recited in the claims. Applicant has also amended Figures 1 and 2 to include reference numerals 25 and 26 that identify the surface having the electrical lead connection. These drawings are approved.

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application, however, because the submitted drawings are marked up copies of the previous Figures. Applicant is required to submit a new copy of the Drawings showing the approved changes, but without the markings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In claim 1 applicant has claimed an interconnection support for plate like microcomponents. The interconnection support is comprised of a support plate (3) that contains a support rail (3) and an unobstructed insertion slot (4). The insertion slot (4) is defined by planar side walls (9 and 12) that accommodate an edge portion of the

Art Unit: 1743

microcomponent. The insertion slot (4) has fluid line connections (10) ***in at least one of the two planar side walls (9 and 12)*** for connecting a fluid source to the associated fluid connections on the microcomponent. The Examiner did not find prior art that teaches or suggests this combination of features. The Examiner considers “Langstrom” (EP 0 040 186) to be the closest prior art. Langstrom teaches a frame for holding plates used in chemical reactions. The frame (Figure 6) is comprised of multiple insertion slots for holding the plates as well as connection members for fluidic and electrical elements (14 and 16) on a wall that does **not** form a side of the insertion slot. Langstrom does not teach or suggest the placement of the connection members on the side walls of the insertion slots.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cherukuri et al. (5,603,351) shows a microfluidic system that includes a support (130) for holding a microfluidic device during loading.

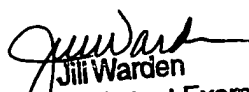
Art Unit: 1743

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwayne K Handy whose telephone number is (571)-272-1259. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DKH
February 4, 2005


Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700